

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2, has been amended to include the previously omitted reference characters 56, 120 and 112.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet showing changes

Remarks:

Claims 1-36 remain for consideration in this application, with claims 1, 13 and 25 being in independent format. In view of the claims as they now stand, the rejections of the last Action must be respectfully traversed.

5 The paragraph appearing at column 3, lines 42-62 of the patent specification has been amended in two respects to conform the wording thereof to the drawings. First of all, the reference to "diameter D" has been amended to remove the "D" identifier, inasmuch as this did not appear in the drawings. In addition, in line 58 the hole defined by the margin 120 of outer wall 118 is erroneously recited as being "smaller than" the opposed hole 56 in the inner wall 112. The Examiner
10 will note that, in fact, the hole in the outer wall 118 is substantially *larger* than the opposed hole 56.

In addition, Fig. 4 has been amended to add three reference numerals, namely the hole 56 in the wall 112, the wall 112, and the hole-defining margin 120 in outer wall 118. Attached is a red-lined markup of Fig. 4, together with a file copy thereof, marked as a replacement drawing.

15 The minor changes made in the specification and the drawing do not, of course, introduce any new matter and improve the readability of the patent specification. Entrance of the amended specification language and drawing is therefore solicited.

Claims 5-7, 10-12, 17-19, 22-24 and 33-34 were rejected under Section 112 for alleged indefiniteness. Claims 5, 10, 12, 17, 22 and 24 have all been amended to overcome the asserted lack of antecedent support. Similarly, claims 33 and 34 have been amended for this same purpose. Accordingly, these rejections are now overcome.

5 A number of the claims were also rejected as anticipated by the Haumann and Wiegand references. Both of these references are similar, and disclose tank or bottle fittings having end couplers with an intermediate flexible member therebetween. It will be noted in this respect that the flexible members in the references are of constant diameter (see the boot 18 of Haumann and the sleeve 39 of Wiegand), presenting endmost openings or holes of constant diameter.

10 Independent claims 1, 13 and 25 now all recite that the claimed annular sealing member presents a pair of opposed holes, with one of the holes being of substantially greater diameter than the other of the holes. This is illustrated, e.g., in Figs. 3 and 4 wherein the sealing member 90 has a large diameter hole defined by the margin 120 and adjacent the end of the boot coupled to access opening 78, and an opposed smaller diameter hole 56 which is positioned adjacent to the outlet conduit in registry with port 54.

15 There is no teaching or suggestion in the art of record of providing a flexible sealing member or boot having the claimed construction. Indeed, the references teach away from the claimed arrangement.

Certain of the original dependent claims have been amended to maintain consistency with the independent claims as amended. Additionally, new dependent claims 35 and 36 have also been added which depend from claim 25. Claim 35 specifically recites that the annular boot is located 5 within the containment area. This is, of course, shown in Fig. 3, for example. Claim 36 recites that the inner and outer tank and vessel respectively have a base, an upright sidewall, and an upper end; and that the discharge outlet is located closer to the bases of the inner tank and containment vessel than the upper ends thereof. Again, this is plainly illustrated in the drawings and does not constitute new matter. This is also significant in distinguishing the art of record. If, for example, the Haumann 10 reference bottle were turned on it's side, the "discharge outlet" thereof would be precisely centered between the "base" and the "upper end." Here again, nothing in the art of record teaches this claimed combination.

Certain of the claims were also rejected under Section 103 on the basis of Haumann in view of Koma. Koma is only significant insofar as the use of a synthetic resin boot. It in no way 15 addresses or renders obvious the construction as now claimed.

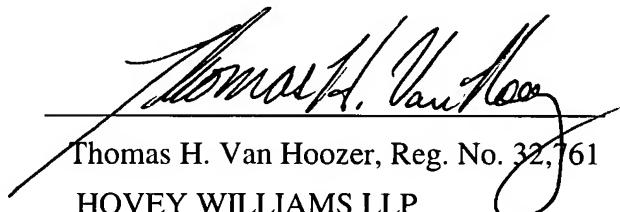
Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended to applicant's attorney and the favorable consideration given to the proposed amendment as indicated in the course of the interview conducted with Examiner Castellano on October 12, 2005. In view of the nature of the amendments made

herein, it is not believed that a new Declaration is required. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

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Respectfully submitted,

by


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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

